Aquablation for the treatment of lower urinary tract symptoms caused by benign prostatic hyperplasia

NHS Devon

Commissioning policy

Aquablation (transurethral water jet ablation) for the treatment of lower urinary tract symptoms caused by benign prostatic hyperplasia is not accepted for routine commissioning in Devon.

Rationale for the decision

Lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) comprise of storage, voiding and post-micturition symptoms affecting the lower urinary tract. In men, the most common cause is benign prostate enlargement, which obstructs the bladder outlet. Benign prostate enlargement happens when the number of cells in the prostate increases, a condition called benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH). LUTS are a major burden for the ageing male population. Age is an important risk factor for LUTS and the prevalence of LUTS increases as men get older. Bothersome LUTS can occur in up to 30% of men older than 65 years. The “gold standard” treatment option for men with LUTS caused by BPH is Transurethral Resection of the Prostate (TURP).

Aquablation (transurethral water jet ablation) is an alternative to TURP to treat LUTS caused by BPH. The technology uses a system which combines image guidance and robotics to target enlarged areas of the prostate with a high-speed jet of saline solution to ablate the prostate tissue.

Current RCT evidence of Aquablation is limited to a trial with a 12 month follow up. There is insufficient information about the longer-term efficacy, safety or cost effectiveness of this procedure to determine if it will be a good use of funds in comparison to other procedures available.

Guidance notes on exceptionality

Where the circumstances of treatment for an individual patient do not meet the criteria described above exceptional funding can be sought. Individual cases will be reviewed by the appropriate panel of the ICB upon receipt of a completed application from the patient's GP, consultant or clinician. Applications cannot be considered from patients personally.

Date of publication:	Version:
28.05.2019	Policy agreed by NHS Devon CCG Policy adopted by NHS Devon ICB on 01.07.2022